

*Bradypterus thoracicus* (Blyth) is illustrated in Sálím Ali's BIRDS OF SIKKIM.

THE CHARTERED BANK,  
CALCUTTA-1,  
March 26, 1968.

J. R. S. HOLMES, M.B.O.U.

#### 14. DUST BATHING BY COMMON BAYA (*PLOCEUS PHILIPPINUS*)

Recently, going through the chapter on Feather Maintenance in A NEW DICTIONARY OF BIRDS, I came across a statement by K. E. L. Simmons, who, while writing of Dusting says, 'Dusting is also found, for example, in sparrows (Passerinae—but not in other Ploceidae).

On the afternoon of May 4, 1962, Julian Donahue and I had gone out along Agra Canal beyond Okhla to watch a large wagtail roost which Julian had discovered the previous evening. Stopping the car on the road, we spotted a family of Bustard Quails. The land was parched and dotted with dry *Zizyphus* bushes and other kinds of thorny bushes, clump of grass and a few *keekar* trees.

A few Common Bayas (*Ploceus philippinus*) were bathing in the dust. Others were feeding on some kind of seeds from the ground.

Dust bathing by the Common Baya has since been corroborated by Mr. S. K. Kanjilal from Lucknow.

32, CHHATRA MARG,  
DELHI-7,  
August 28, 1968.

(MRS.) USHA GANGULI

#### 15. SOME NEW BIRD RECORDS FOR DELHI

On 2 June 1968 I found the Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola maldivarum*) nesting on the grasslands on the south-western side of the dried-up Najargarh jheel, about 20 miles south-west of Delhi.

This is the first nesting record we can trace for Delhi, although the Pratincole has been seen in every month of the year.

There were many Pratincoles in the area, some flying and others standing or sitting on the ground. As I drove my car slowly towards one it suddenly rose and threatened the car with outstretched wings. I then found two eggs resting on the ground in the short grass. There was little sign of the bird having hollowed the ground at all.